



# MISSING PERSPECTIVES:

SERVICEMEMBERS' TRANSITION FROM SERVICE TO CIVILIAN LIFE

## POPULATION



**OVER 23 MILLION**

LIVING, US MILITARY SERVICEMEMBERS

OF TOTAL POPULATION 18 AND OVER

**9%** ARE VETERANS (OVER 21.2 MILLION)

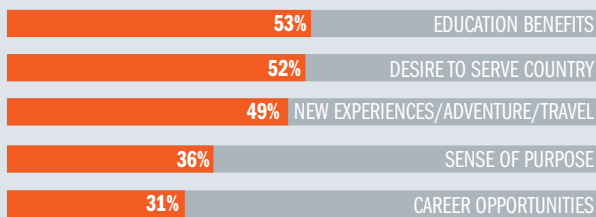
AND

**1%** ARE ACTIVE DUTY/ACTIVATED NATIONAL  
 GUARD AND RESERVES (OVER 2.1 MILLION)

## MILITARY SERVICE

### MOTIVATION FOR SERVICE

#### TOP REASONS FOR JOINING



**88%** REPORTED THAT JOINING  
 THE MILITARY WAS A  
**GOOD DECISION**

### MILITARY SKILLS

#### SKILLS DEVELOPED DURING SERVICE



**81%** indicated that their military specialty (MOS, AFSC, Rating, or designator) accurately described the military jobs that they performed during service

**43%** STEM RELATED MILITARY SPECIALIZATIONS/JOBS report that their military specialization, job, or training is science, technology, engineering, or mathematics related

## HIGHER EDUCATION

### MOTIVATORS FOR PURSUING EDUCATION

**86%** CAREER/JOB OPPORTUNITIES  
**71%** SELF-IMPROVEMENT  
**69%** POTENTIAL FOR MAKING MONEY  
**56%** PROFESSIONAL ADVANCEMENT  
**51%** TO USE BENEFITS



### PROBLEMS OR BARRIERS THAT HINDERED PURSUIT OF EDUCATION

**56%** LACK OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES  
**28%** PERSONAL/FAMILY OBLIGATIONS  
**25%** GI BILL BENEFITS EXPIRED  
**23%** HEALTH/DISABILITY ISSUES  
**22%** CONFLICT BETWEEN JOB AND SCHOOL

### PROBLEMS FACED WHILE PURSUING EDUCATION

**37%** AGE DIFFERENCES  
**32%** LACK OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES  
**32%** WORKING FULL TIME JOB  
**29%** FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES  
**26%** FEW VETERAN RESOURCES ON CAMPUS



**84%**

felt there was a place for veterans' leadership, achievement, and/or excellence on campus at colleges/universities

**YET ONLY 53%**

felt that colleges/universities recognize the specific strengths and skills veterans bring to campus

## GI BILL

**1,088,411**

TOTAL NUMBER OF GI BILL USERS NATIONALLY AS OF 2014

—a number that represents about 12 billion dollars per year and covers higher education and training, licensing, and credentialing programs—but includes

**LESS THAN HALF OF ELIGIBLE VETERANS**

## MILITARY SERVICE

### LASTING IMPRESSIONS

FROM THE MILITARY ON SKILLS AND ATTRIBUTES FOR EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS

**71%** REPORTED THE MILITARY LEFT A LASTING IMPRESSION IN DEVELOPING SKILLS AND ATTRIBUTES THAT WILL HELP SUCCEED IN EDUCATION

**82%** REPORTED THAT THE MILITARY LEFT A LASTING IMPRESSION ON THEIR LIVES

### MILITARY INFLUENCES



**73%**

MILITARY PROMOTED THEIR INTEREST IN EDUCATION



**68%**

MILITARY PREPARED THEM FOR EDUCATION



**66%**

MILITARY PREPARED THEM FOR THEIR CIVILIAN CAREER



**71%**

PROMOTED THEIR INTEREST IN TRAINING, CERTIFICATION, OR LICENSING PROGRAMS

## TRANSITION

### TOP TRANSITIONAL CHALLENGES

**60%**

NAVIGATING VA ADMIN. OR BENEFITS

**55%**

GETTING A JOB

**41%**

GETTING SOCIALIZED TO CIVILIAN CULTURE

**40%**

FINANCIAL STRUGGLES

**39%**

SKILLS TRANSLATION

**92%** INDICATED THAT EDUCATION SHOULD PLAY A ROLE IN THEIR POST-SERVICE TRANSITION

## DISABILITIES

OVER

**3.9 MILLION**

DISABLED VETERANS ARE CATEGORIZED BY THE VA AS HAVING A DISABILITY. OF THOSE, 43% ARE OF GULF WAR AND POST-9/11 VETERANS

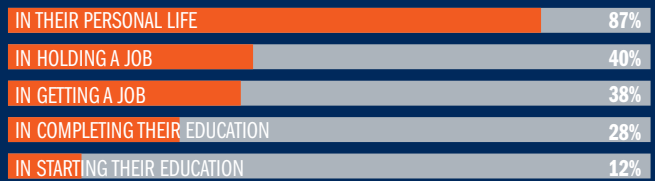
**58%**

REPORTED A SERVICE-RELATED DISABILITY

**32%**

REPORTED THEY DID NOT HAVE A DISABILITY

OF THOSE THAT HAVE SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES, 79% INDICATED THAT IT CREATES OBSTACLES:

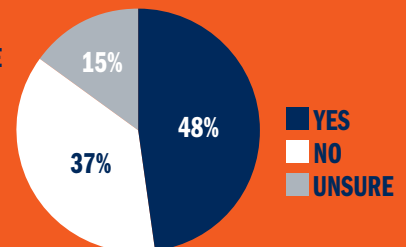


## POST-MILITARY CAREER

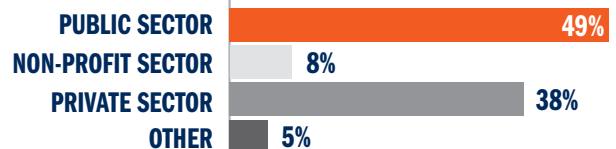
**55%**

OF SERVICEMEMBERS SAID THAT THEY ARE LIKELY TO PURSUE A DIFFERENT CAREER THAN THEIR MILITARY SPECIALIZATION

VETERANS' PREFERENCE INFLUENCES THEIR POST SERVICE JOB CHOICE



### WHERE RESPONDENTS ARE WORKING POST SERVICE



**79%** INDICATED THAT THE MILITARY PLAYED A ROLE IN THEIR SUCCESS